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Identical letters dated 7 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

In an earlier letter concerning the events in the Syrian Arab Republic, we informed you that certain neighbouring States are playing a destructive role by provoking violence and supporting armed terrorist groups. I should now like to inform you that those groups recently plundered some 1,000 factories belonging to industrialists in Aleppo and then transferred the stolen goods to Turkey, with the full knowledge of the Turkish Government.

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that this illegal act, which the Turkish Government was aware of and facilitated, is tantamount to an act of piracy against the Syrian people's livelihoods and their economy. It demonstrates yet again Turkey's ambitious designs, its destructive role in the Syrian crisis and its ill will towards the Syrian people. It also confirms the falsehood of Turkey's claims of concern for the lives and essential needs of the Syrian people.

Syria would like to point out that these unethical acts, which are a flagrant violation of the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in States' internal affairs, are tantamount to direct participation in transnational crime and piracy. They require an international response commensurate with the great harm caused to the Syrian people and their economic and commercial assets.

When a neighbouring State such as Turkey supports terrorism, assists in the transnational plunder of Syrian resources and the destruction of the Syrian people's assets and sources of livelihood, and facilitates the use of those resources to support terrorism in Syria, the Security Council must respond in a manner that is on a par with its responsibilities and its commitment to combat terrorism and maintain international security and peace.

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In view of the foregoing, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn clearly these destructive acts of terrorism and do what is required to hold accountable their perpetrators, as well as those States and regional and international Powers that stand behind them. Such a condemnation would show that the United Nations rejects any further efforts on the part of States hostile to Syria to aggravate the living conditions and the humanitarian suffering of the Syrian people. It calls on them to take all necessary legal measures to compel the Turkish Government to return the stolen property to its owners and compensate fully those who have been harmed, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, and to require the Turkish Government to desist immediately from engaging in such conduct and to refrain from doing so in the future.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative